

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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R 212253Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8589

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POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: BUILDING TRADES UNIONS SEEKING GREATER  
AUTONOMY

1. DESPITE OPPOSITION OF SENIOR OFFICERS ON CANADIAN  
ADVISORY BOARD TO AFL-CIO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES  
DEPT. SOME 200 LOWER LEVEL OFFICERS REPRESENTING FIFTEEN  
BUILDING TRADES UNIONS MET IN WINNIPEG LAST WEEKEND TO  
DRAW UP CONSTITUTION FOR A CANADIAN BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL  
AND DECIDED TO REQUEST A CHARTER FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF  
AFL-CIO BUILDING TRADES AT ITS FEBRUARY MEETING. THIS  
MOVE IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO FORCE THE HAND OF U.S. PARENT  
UNIONS WHICH AGREED IN PRINCIPLE LAST FALL TO ESTABLISH  
A CANADIAN COUNCIL AT AN UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE AND ONLY  
IF "CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT IT". AT ISSUE IS NOT DESIRABILITY  
TO CREATE A CANADIAN COUNCIL TO COORDINATE UNION POSITIONS  
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BUT  
RATHER LEGITIMATE FEARS OF SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICERS  
THAT THEIR AUTHORITY WILL BE UNDERMINED IF THEY CANNOT  
CONTROL STRUCTURE AND POWERS OF SUCH A QUASI-AUTONOMOUS  
COUNCIL.

2. PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY LAST YEAR'S  
DISPUTE OVER CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS AUTONOMY STANDARDS  
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WHICH LED U.S. UNION HEADQUARTERS TO SHOW THEIR

OPPOSITION BY WITHHOLDING DUES PAYMENTS TO CLC. ALTHOUGH  
DUES ARREARS HAVE NOW BEEN PAID, RESENTMENT BY LOCAL  
BUILDING TRADES UNION LEADERS AND PROVINCAL COUNCILS  
HAS NOT ABATED. IF NO ACCOMMODATION FOR ESTABLISHING  
CANADIAN COUNCIL IS REACHED WITH AFL-CIO BUILDING TRADES  
DEPT., IT WOULD CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN THOSE GROUPS IN  
BUILDING TRADES UNIONS HERE THAT STRIVE FOR COMPLETE  
RUPTURE WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL UNIONS.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

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